

PERSONAL TESTIMONY – SUPPORT BILL 45 (2013)

To Rezone Land Situated At Kapa`a Valley, Kailua Oahu from P-2 General Preservation District to the I-1 Limited Industrial District

September 11, 2013

Aloha chair and members of the Honolulu City Council

I'm Charles K. Burrows and I personally support Bill 45 to rezone land situated at Kapa`a Valley, Kailua, Oahu from a P-2 Preservation District to the I-1 Limited Industrial Park. As an environmentalist, with academic degrees in biology and environmental studies and as a Hawaiian naturalist who has been involved for the past 30 years in the protection, conservation and restoration of Kawainui Marsh along with other Hawaiian and Kailua community organizations, I believe the proposed development plan to upgrade 27 acres in the Kapa`a Industrial Park complex environmental enhances the former landfill property and will not contribute to the degradation of the Kawainui wetlands.

The rebuttal to the concerns of other environmental groups by planner, Dr. Manfred Zapka of the Sustainable Design and Consulting LLC, adequately addresses the environmental issues which they raised. We all have "common interests" for the present and future welfare to protect Kawainui Marsh, which with Hamakua Marsh were designated, as Ramsar Wetlands of International Importance along with 39 wetlands in the U.S. and 1,900 throughout the world.

The Kapa`a Light Industrial Park sustainable design plan takes into account the flow and recapture of storm water and filtration of wastewater by redirecting into a native plants and wetland gardens before entering Kapa`a Stream and into the marsh. The Sustainable Design Development Plan for this light industrial park, should be a model for any other infrastructure development in Kailua which borders the wetlands and for the City Council to address current storm water drainage from surrounding Kailua communities and roadways into the wetlands and waterways which are of higher concerns.

The King family over the years are good stewards of the environment in Kailua. They have supported and worked closely with the Hawaiian organizations, the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club and `Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi to conserve and restore the natural and cultural resources of Ulupo Heiau and Na Pohaku o Hauwahine in Kawainui Marsh. I believe they will not only continue to be partners with these Hawaiian organizations but also with other environmental and community groups in Kailua.

We are all caretakers of all of creation. A Hawaiian proverb illustrates this belief: "Ha ali'i no ka 'aina, ka kauwa wale ke Kanaka." (The land is the chief, the people merely servants.)

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